

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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HORNE ANNOUNCES ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER (ELL) MODELS ADOPTED TODAY BY TASK FORCE

PHOENIX (Thursday, September 13, 2007) -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne announced today that the English Language Learners Task Force adopted instructional models as required by law in 2006. Under the adopted models, schools are required to provide a minimum of four hours per day of English Language Development (ELD). In order to receive full funding, schools will have to be in compliance with the statute and with the instructional models.

Horne stated: "The Task Force has worked very hard to develop models designed to help the ELL student become proficient in English as quickly as possible."

The models are divided up into four hours of instruction and include: Oral English and conversation instruction, 45 minutes; grammar instruction, 60 minutes; reading instruction, 60 minutes; vocabulary instruction, 60 minutes; and pre-writing instruction, 15 minutes for ELL students in their first year.

Horne added: "It is hoped that this change will greatly increase the rate at which ELLs are reclassified 'English proficient' and enable them to achieve much greater academic success. This is not just a matter of establishing models. We have 18 highly trained employees ready to go to the school districts and give technical assistance so that we will all do a better job for our English Language Learners."

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